

## PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Title</b>	Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project
<b>Brief Description</b>	<p>Woodpecker Preserve, owned in fee title by the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT), is a heavily forested 28.23 acre parcel of land in the Little Deer Creek watershed. The land acts as a forested buffer to a densely populated residential neighborhood on Banner Mountain in Nevada City.</p> <p>The project encompasses initial fuels reduction treatment of the forest, invasive species removal, and limited re-vegetation in a highly eroded area. Restoration efforts will include the removal or modification of surface fuels, the felling of excess snags, and hand-thinning to decrease overall stand density.</p> <p>Project outcomes include a healthy forest habitat for wildlife and improved water quality in Little Deer Creek, improved recreational opportunities for trail access and birdwatching, and prevention of catastrophic wildfires. Project activities are guided by the Woodpecker Ravine Management Plan, developed in 2004 by BYLT. Additional in-kind support for the project is being provided by community donations and volunteer work.</p>
<b>Total Requested Amount</b>	76,315.00
<b>Other Fund Proposed</b>	50,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	126,315.00
<b>Project Category</b>	Site Improvement/Restoration
<b>Project Area/Size</b>	28 acres
<b>Project Area Type</b>	Acres
<b>Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?</b>	No
<b>Is this application related to other SNC funding?</b>	No

<b>Project Results</b>
Restoration

<b>Project Purpose</b>	<b>Project Purpose Percent</b>
Water Quality	

<b>County</b>
Nevada

<b>Sub Region</b>
Central

**PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Name</b>	Ms. Marty Coleman-Hunt,
<b>Title</b>	Executive Director
<b>Organization</b>	Bear Yuba Land Trust
<b>Primary Address</b>	12183 Auburn Road, , , Grass Valley, CA, 95949
<b>Primary Phone/Fax</b>	530-272-5994 <b>Ext.</b>
<b>Primary Email</b>	marty@bylt.org

## PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

### Project Location

Address:	Gracie Road at Banner Lava Cap Road, , Nevada City, CA, 95959
United States	
Water Agency:	Nevada Irrigation District
Latitude:	39.242192
Longitude:	-120.99689
Congressional District:	na
Senate:	na
Assembly:	na
Within City Limits:	Yes
City Name:	Nevada City

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grant Application Type

**Grant Application Type:**  
**Category One Site Improvement**

<b>PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION</b>
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<b>Other Grant Project Contacts</b>
Name: Marty Coleman-Hunt, Project Role: Day-to-Day Responsibility Phone: 5302725994 Phone Ext: E-mail: marty@bylt.org

## UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Application Checklist
Table of Contents
Full Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Narrative Descriptions
Detailed Budget Form
CEQA Documentation
Letters of Support
Long Term Management Plan
Project Location Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Topographic Map
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site

Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Land Tenure- Only for Site Improvement Projects
Site Plan - Only Site Improv. or Restoration Proj.

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.



## **Appendix B1**

### **Full Application Checklist**

Project Name: **Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project**

Applicant: **Bear Yuba Land Trust**

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. "N/A" identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications

1. **X** Completed Application Checklist (EFN: *Checklist.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
2. **X** Table of Contents (EFN: *TOC.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
3. **X** Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: *SIform.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
4. **X** Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: *authorization.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
5. **X** Narrative Descriptions - Submit a single document that includes each of the following narrative descriptions (EFN: *Narrative.doc, .docx, .rtf*)
  - a. **X** Detailed Project Description (5,000 character maximum)
    - X** Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc.
    - X** Project Summary
    - X** Environmental Setting
  - b. **X** Workplan and Schedule (1,000 character maximum)
  - c. **X** Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements(1,000 character maximum)
  - d. **X** Organizational Capacity(1,000 character maximum)
  - e. **X** Cooperation and Community Support (1,000 character maximum)
  - f. **X** Long Term Management and Sustainability (1,000 character maximum)
  - g. **X** Performance Measures (1,000 character maximum)
6. Supplemental and Supporting documents
  - a. **X** Detailed Budget Form (EFN: *Budget.xls, .xlsx*)
  - b. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements, as applicable
    - N/A** Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: *RestAgree.pdf*)
    - N/A** Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: *RegPermit.pdf*)

- X** California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN: CEQA.pdf)  
**N/A** National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: NEPA.pdf)
- c. Cooperation and Community Support  
**X** Letters of Support (EFN: LOS.pdf)
- d. Long-Term Management and Sustainability  
**X** Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: LTMP.pdf)
- e. Maps and Photos  
**X** Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)  
**X** Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)  
**X** Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)  
**X** Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: Photo.jpg, .gif)
- f. Additional submission requirements for Conservation Easement Acquisition applications only  
☐ Acquisition Schedule (EFN: acqSched.doc,.docx,.rtf,.pdf)  
☐ Willing Seller Letter (EFN: WillSell.pdf)  
☐ Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: Appraisal.pdf)  
☐ Conservation Easement Language (EFN: CE.pdf)
- g. Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project applications only  
**X** Land Tenure Documents – attach only if documentation was not included with Pre-application (EFN: Tenure.pdf)  
**X** Site Plan (EFN: SitePlan.pdf)  
**N/A** Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgmnt.pdf)

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed (Authorized Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title (print or type)

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**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT APPLICATION FORM  
CATEGORY ONE GRANTS**

Rev. January 2010

*Complete all applicable items on both pages of form.*

<b>1. PROJECT NAME : Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project</b>	<b>2. REFERENCE NUMBER: 631</b>						
<b>3. APPLICANT</b> <i>(Agency name, address, and zip code)</i> Bear Yuba Land Trust 12183 Auburn Rd. Grass Valley, CA 95949	<b>4. APPLICANT TYPE:</b> X Nonprofit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Organization						
<b>5. APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><span><i>Name and title – type or print</i></span><span><i>Phone</i> 530-272-5994</span><span><i>Email Address</i> marty@bylt.org</span></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Mr. X Ms. Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director</div>							
<b>6. PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT</b> <i>(If different from Authorized Representative)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><span><i>Name and title – type or print</i></span><span><i>Phone</i></span><span><i>Email Address</i></span></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.</div>							
<b>7. PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING</b> <i>(If different from Authorized Representative or Day to Day Administrator)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><span><i>Name and title – type or print</i></span><span><i>Phone</i></span><span><i>Email Address</i></span></div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.</div>							
<b>8. FUNDING INFORMATION</b> <table style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 50%;">SNC Grant Request <i>(Must be \$5,000 - \$1,000,000)</i></td><td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">\$76,315</td></tr><tr><td>Other Funds</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$50,000</td></tr><tr><td>Total Project Cost</td><td style="text-align: right;">\$126,315</td></tr></table>		SNC Grant Request <i>(Must be \$5,000 - \$1,000,000)</i>	\$76,315	Other Funds	\$50,000	Total Project Cost	\$126,315
SNC Grant Request <i>(Must be \$5,000 - \$1,000,000)</i>	\$76,315						
Other Funds	\$50,000						
Total Project Cost	\$126,315						
<b>9. PROJECT CATEGORIES</b> <b>X Site Improvement (fill in all that apply)</b> Project Area: 28 acres Total Acres: 28 acres SNC Portion (if different): _____ Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): _____ SNC Portion (if different): _____	<b>9a. DELIVERABLES</b> <b>(Select <u>one</u> primary deliverable)</b> X Restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancement <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Protection <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Development / Improvement						
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Acquisition (fill in all that apply)</b> Project Area: Total Acres: SNC Portion (if different): _____ Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank): _____ SNC Portion (if different): _____	<b>(Select <u>one</u> primary deliverable)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Title <input type="checkbox"/> Easement or Other Landowner Agreement						

<b>10. PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION</b> <i>(Include zip code)</i> Gracie Road at Banner Lava Cap Road, Nevada City 95959	
<b>11. LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE</b>  <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 2px;">39.242192, - 120.996895</div>	
<b>12. COUNTY</b> Nevada	<b>13. CITY</b> <i>(Is project within city limits? If so, which one?)</i> Within Nevada City limits
<b>14. NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION:</b>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Name: Nevada Irrigation District</span> <span>Phone Number: (530) 273-6185</span> </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;">       • Email address: <a href="mailto:admindepartment@nid.dst.ca.us">admindepartment@nid.dst.ca.us</a> </div>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>Name:</span> <span>Phone Number:</span> </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px;">       Email address:     </div>	
<b>15. CEQA OR NEPA DOCUMENT TYPE</b> (if applicable) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption  <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration  <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report         </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finding of No Significant Impact  <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement  <input type="checkbox"/> Joint CEQA/NEPA Document         </div> </div>	
<b>16. STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER</b>	
<b>17. APPRAISAL</b>  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Submittal with application         <input type="checkbox"/> Submittal by _____       </div>	

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed (Authorized Representative)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 January 20, 2010  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director  
 Name and Title (print or type)

## Board of Directors Resolution No. 41

<b>Board of Directors Resolution No. 41</b> In the matter of: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE <b>Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84</b> GRANT PROGRAM UNDER THE <b>Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond ACT OF 2006</b>	Resolution No: 41  Date: January 23, 2012
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The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Directors of the Bear Yuba Land Trust at a regular meeting held January 24, 2012, by the following vote:

Ayes:

Abstentions:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by: Fran Cole

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Chair, Board of Directors

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, the Bear Yuba Land Trust has identified the **Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project** as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Bear Yuba Land Trust, that this Board:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for the **Woodpecker Preserve Forest**

**Restoration Project; and**

2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resource(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
5. Appoints Marty Coleman-Hunt or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bear Yuba Land Trust on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 2012.

## **4. Narrative Description**

### **a. Detailed Project Description**

#### Project Description

The project is to implement effective healthy forest management techniques on a property owned by the Bear Yuba Land Trust. Woodpecker Preserve is a heavily forested 28.23 acre parcel of land which acts as a forested buffer to a densely populated residential neighborhood on Banner Mountain in Nevada City.

The Preserve is a critically important wildlife area, in particular for nested pairs of Pileated Woodpeckers, and contains a popular recreational trail. The Pileated Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker in North America and prefers to nest in the tallest of trees. The publicly accessed trail system runs through the heart of this property and showcases the mature trees. Because of the public trail and good bird watching habitat, the property is highly visible and popular with the local community.

With selective thinning of the understory and attentive management Woodpecker Preserve would be an example of a healthy forest that supports ample wildlife and contributes to the environmental health of our streams and rivers.

#### Project Summary

The project as proposed encompasses the initial treatment of the forest, primarily fuels reduction, invasives removal and limited re-vegetation in a highly eroded area. Project outcomes include a healthy forest habitat for wildlife and improved water quality in Little Deer Creek, improved recreational opportunities, and prevention of catastrophic wildfires.

Ongoing management of the property after the project is completed will be performed by BYLT Stewardship staff, as a part of our overall land management effort on nearly 1,000 acres of public access land we own as parks and open space in the region. There is a trail extension project that will be completed in the same timeframe, which is funded by a third party (Nevada City Rotary Club) and is not a part of the grant application. Finally, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) has agreed to collaborate with BYLT to repair an area of severe erosion caused by an accidental canal blow-out several years ago. This blow-out erosion repair is not a part of the grant proposal.

This grant would be of great benefit to the forest health of the property and its surroundings and would increase protection of a community that is acutely vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. Restoration would employ strategies that have emerged as a new standard for fire prevention and control in forest ecosystems, involving the removal or modification of surface fuels, the felling of excess snags, and hand-thinning to decrease overall stand density. Selective reduction in brush



density improves tree growth and vigor, increases live crown ratios, reduces insect and disease mortality, and promotes understory shrub development as wildlife habitat.

The property is also in need of re-vegetation in a highly eroded area. Six years ago, vandalism caused a blow-out from the NID overflow on the Cascade Canal, causing a landslide and major erosion. There are areas of the erosion-prone slopes that would be re-vegetated with plants to prevent erosion into nearby canals and waterways such as Little Deer Creek in a manner that protects native plant ecology. The plan includes the re-vegetation to stabilize a five-acre damaged area, as fuels work and invasives removal may further destabilize soils.

Project activities will be guided by the Woodpecker Ravine Management Plan, developed in 2004 by BYLT. The proposed project outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1. Fuels Management: a) Improve overall forest ecosystem health and habitat structure; b) Wildfire prevention and safety measures for fire safe rural communities

Outcome 2. Invasive Species Removal: a) Control spread and invasion of non-native species and reduction of seed availability for downstream or downwind transport; b) Reduce competitive pressures on native flora

Outcome 3. Re-vegetation with Natives: a) Improvement in ecosystem stability and health; b) Preservation and restoration of native biodiversity and rare/endangered species; c) Increase in native plant food source; and d) Restoration of native plant communities that are adapted to the natural fire regime, resulting in improved fire resiliency

Outcome 4. Improve Water Quality for Little Deer Creek: Provide erosion control on cleared and/or thinned slopes and in a limited area around NID blow-out. Also, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire would benefit Little Deer Creek, as areas that were subject to catastrophic fires are typically prone to high erosion rates that could lead to water quality problems and decreased quality of instream habitat for macros/fish/amphibians in Little Deer Creek.

Outcome 5. Alignment with SNC Program Goals: a) Protect, conserve and restore physical and living resources by improving vegetative complex, water quality, and habitat; b) Reduce the risk of wildfires by eliminating fire-prone invasive non-natives; c) Protect and improve water quality by restoring native riparian vegetation and reducing/preventing further erosion; d) Enhance public use and enjoyment of public lands.

Outcome 6. Consistency with Prop 84 goals: Targets the riparian and adjacent zones of Woodpecker Ravine in the Deer Creek watershed. This property is owned in Fee Title by the Bear Yuba Land Trust. This will ensure the property is managed and protected in perpetuity. This project supports Prop 84 funding goals because it will contribute to the protection and restoration of important point-of source for water that flows into the state's rivers, lakes

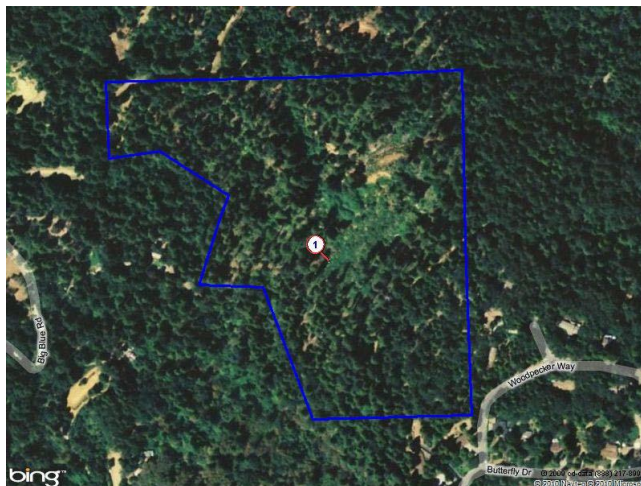
and streams. This particular watershed contributes to more than 65% of the state's drinking water. Ensuring that the hydrology of the watershed is productive and protected is critical for the citizens of the state and addresses Prop 84's funding goals. This is done through forest restoration, sustainable forest management practices and protection from catastrophic wildfire.

These outcomes are in line with the overall framework for fuels management as put forth by the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) Final Report to Congress. The stated goals of this strategy are to: 1) Reduce substantially the area and average size burned by large, high-severity wildfires; 2) Restore more of the ecosystem functions of frequent low to moderate-severity fire; 3) Improve the health, integrity and sustainability of Sierra Nevada ecosystems.

### Environmental Setting

Woodpecker Preserve is located within the Nevada City limits and less than three miles from downtown Nevada City on Lower Banner Mountain, with a top elevation of 3,240' and lower elevation of 2,880'. This mixed conifer/oak woodland is a critically important wildlife area containing a recreational trail in a neighborhood populated by many homes. The new trail will expand this trail system through a more rugged landscape than the first part of the trail providing

connectivity to a larger regional trail system.



The forest was logged 12 years ago and has become overgrown with brush and small trees in the understory, characterized by a high level of fuel accumulation resulting from a century and a half of fire suppression efforts. The forest composition has also been compromised by invasive non-native plants, especially Himalayan blackberry. Invasive plants both contribute to and are the result of altered fire regimes – replacing native plants

that are adapted to the natural fire regime. Over-zealous fire prevention practices may inadvertently create a greater fire danger by creating a space for invasive weeds such as blackberry and Scotch Broom to flourish.

The Preserve is currently dominated by *Pinus ponderosa* (Ponderosa Pine), *Calocedrus decurrens* (Incense Cedar), *Psuedotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-Fir), *Acer macrophyllum* (Big Leaf Maple), and *Quercus kelloggii* (Black Oak). Many of the large conifers on site are 60-90 years old. Dogwood and a few isolated *Arbutus menziesii* (Pacific Madrone) are also found here. Logging debris is heavy below

the Cascade Canal, but most is on the ground. An evaluation based on two plant field surveys (spring and summer) and examination of data on “target species” for this area has been prepared. A rare population of *Cardamine pachystigma* ssp. *dissectifolia* (Dissected-Leaf Toothwort) was located adjacent to and on the parcel, growing along the downstream bank of the NID Cascade Canal (California Native Plant Society listed). The Preserve under story has *Arctostaphylos viscida* (Whiteleaf Manzanita), *Ceanothus integerrimus* (Deerbrush), and *Toxicodendron diversilobum* (Poison Oak). A colony of *Hedera helix* (English Ivy) is also on the Preserve. A large area of *Dicentra Formosa* (Bleeding Heart) and *Iris missouriensis* (Wild Iris) cover the slopes below the Cascade Canal. The understory on the hillside north of the Cascade Canal is occupied with *Lonicera hispidula* (Pink Honeysuckle), *Rubus ursinus* (Native Blackberry) and *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon).

The Preserve is adjacent to a privately owned, well-managed 80 acre forest containing a conservation easement, and a nearby 120 acre parcel owned by BLM, allowing for a large connected tract of land to be preserved and managed as a fire buffer to the east south/east, for downtown Nevada City. Little Deer Creek which runs through or close to these properties provides the water resource for the Nevada City Water Treatment plant and the municipal water agency one-quarter mile downstream.

For the most part, the immediate neighborhood can be described as bounded by Red Dog Road to the north, Nevada City and Highway 49 at the west, and Banner Lava Cap Road to the south and east. Properties in the area are generally zoned for residential home sites; parcels range from roughly two acres to over forty acres in size. Single-family homes are the predominant site use in the area, with a significant number of unimproved sites scattered throughout the neighborhood.



corner.

Little Deer Creek, which provides water for the Nevada City Water Treatment plant and the municipal water agency, runs just off the northern edge of the property. The terrain generally slopes toward the creek, with two springs creating seasonal drainages into the creek. Two water-conveyance canals traverse the appraised site; the Cascade Canal runs across the southeast corner while the DS Canal crosses the northwest. DS Canal Flume #14 lies along the north property line, and a portion of Flume #15 crosses at the northwest



## **b. Workplan and Schedule**

Bear Yuba Land Trust's Stewardship Program Manager and Woodpecker land manager, Erin Tarr will manage the project in coordination with Justin Wood, River Scientist of Sierra Streams Institute (SSI). SSI has extensive design and restoration experience in creeks and restoration projects. Local firms and contractors have reviewed the habitat restoration plan and have provided preliminary estimates for the cost of the work; these estimates are attached. With funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the fuel load reduction, invasive species removal and native re-vegetation project will be ready to proceed in August 2012.

The project as proposed encompasses the initial treatment of the forest, primarily fuels reduction, invasives removal and limited re-vegetation in a highly eroded area. This includes the removal or modification of surface fuels, the felling of excess snags, and hand-thinning to decrease overall stand density. Slash would be either burned, chipped or hauled away for disposal offsite. Areas of erosion-prone slopes would be re-vegetated with native plants. This native re-vegetation would also focus on areas where soil may become destabilized due to the fuels work and invasive removal.

Continued monitoring of the Preserve would be conducted on an annual basis beginning in August 2012. Surveys will be conducted prior to the start of any work to determine sensitive habitat areas. We will perform bird surveys and vegetation transect surveys both before and in the years following the project. We will also administer runoff monitoring for the NID Ravine to determine the change in sedimentation being deposited into Little Deer Creek before and after native re-vegetation.

Included in this grant is money to purchase a Trimble GPS unit and Pathfinder Software so that our organization can conduct accurate surveys and monitoring of our ongoing restoration projects. Currently BYLT has a very antiquated GPS unit which has proven inefficient and inaccurate in surveys of the property. We feel that in order to reach our goals and be able to effectively monitor vegetation, birds and mammals and native re-vegetation on this Preserve we need to have equipment that will aid in this objective. We have received a discounted government rate for this equipment from California Surveying and Drafting Supply. [See attached quote pg 48]

### 1) Workplan

#### **a. Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention**

The fuel reduction project will consist of thinning of the understory vegetation that has created a high amount of fuels that pose a threat of catastrophic wildfire. Our methods of removal will consist of hand thinning selective areas of concern and then chipping the material. We will be contracting with Leaf It To Me Inc, a local land clearing contractor who will bring a track chipper on site.

Since the property was selectively logged in 1997, there has been no management of the re-growth of trees. The *Calocedrus decurrens* (Incense Cedar) and *Psuedotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir) have

reestablished themselves in dense patches throughout the understory. In most cases trees with a DBH of 6" or less will be removed. We will leave trees that have the ability to preserve the ecological integrity of the land and will conduct a survey with local forester, Kevin Whitlock, prior to our work to ensure this. There are a fair amount of snags on the property. Most would be left due to their ability to provide suitable habitat for wildlife.

The approximately 4 acre portion south of the Cascade Canal is the portion of the property that is nearest to residential homes and is one area with the most crowded tree re-growth. There is also a large amount of downed wood in this location that is creating a serious threat of ladder fuel in the event of a wildfire. Creating a 300 ft buffer from these homes is a high priority of this project. Efforts of fuel reduction will also be focused around the existing and the new expanded trail. A buffer of 30 ft on either side of the trails will be managed. [See Site Plan Maps pg 38-39] A maximum of 20 acres and a minimum of 5 acres will be treated based on selective integrated vegetation management practices determined at initial surveys.

#### b. Invasive Species Removal

Invasive species removal is another focus of this project. There are areas on the eastern side of the property where *Rubus discolor* (Himalayan Blackberry) is dominating the understory. There is also a large population of *Rubus ursinus* (California Native Blackberry) on the property. In many places these two plants can be found in the same vicinity. So the establishment of California Native Blackberry is already apparent and the loss of habitat that may occur due to Himalayan Blackberry removal can easily be restored using California Native Blackberry and *Rubus idaeus* (American Red Raspberry). The removal of Himalayan Blackberry, followed by the re-vegetation of native species will restore approximately 2 acres of riparian habitat.

There are small populations of *Cytisus scoparius* (Scotch Broom) as well. Scotch Broom is a vigorous competitor with many other native plants and poses a large fire risk. This invasive species would be pulled by hand and regular monitoring would be necessary to ensure succession of the plant was eliminated. This will increase the ecological health and reduce the risk of catastrophic fire in the woodland composed of mixed conifer and black oaks.

#### c. Native Plant Re-vegetation

Re-vegetation of native plants would occur in the wet winter months so that the plants have a chance to establish their root structures and prepare for the dry summer months. This should be taken into consideration before planting occurs. Many of the species involved in this re-vegetation, are at least moderately drought tolerant. Some species however, may need to be planted later in the project after the more drought tolerant species have established and can play a nursery role providing shade and better water retention. Native re-vegetation should follow invasive species removal from the plots in order to restore structure and function. Established native vegetation



cover will also help stabilize the soil, controlling erosion in the plots. There will be a maximum of 5 acres re-vegetated for this project.

Another main area of focus for re-vegetation is in the NID blow-out which is highly eroded. The slopes have a limited amount of established trees, but the majority of the area is un-vegetated and at high risk of erosion and increasing sedimentation into Little Deer Creek. Re-vegetation would consist of planting native species which would increase the soil stability and decrease erosion. Native plants, such as *Muhlenbergia rigens* (Deergrass), *Symphoricarpos spp.* (Snowberries), and *Salix spp.* (Willow Trees) will be planted in the base of the ravine as well as on the slopes. The increased vegetation at the base of the ravine will act as a blockade for sedimentation that would otherwise flow freely into Little Deer Creek. The trees on the banks will help to stabilize the soil and prevent further erosion.

The preliminary native species palette below consists of the main species we will be re-vegetating the Preserve with. Trees will be replanted in the understory to ensure a diverse mixture of habitat areas for wildlife. Herbaceous plants that produce berries will be used in disturbed areas to provide a food source for resident wildlife. Shrubs will be incorporated as well to provide both functions; habitat and food.

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>	Big Leaf Maple
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White Alder
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>	Pacific Madrone
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	Spice Bush
<i>Galium bolanderi</i>	Bolander's Bedstraw
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	Deer Grass
<i>Quercus kelloggii</i>	Black Oak
<i>Pinus Ponderosa</i>	Ponderosa Pine
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Western Chokecherry
<i>Rhamnus rubra</i>	Sierra Coffeeberry
<i>Rubus leucodermis</i>	White Stemmed Raspberry
<i>Salix spp</i>	Willow Species
<i>Symphoricarpos mollis</i>	Creeping Snowberry

The following is a list of Sensitive Plant Species that were found in a vegetation survey in 1997. These plants will be included in re-vegetation on a conditional basis. If the plants are available at the time of restoration they will be incorporated. If any of these plants are observed on the property, special care will be taken to avoid disturbing these areas.

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var <i>avicus</i>	Pleasant Valley Tulip
<i>Corydalis forficata</i>	Clustered Lady's-Slipper
<i>Fritillaria eastwoodiae</i>	Butte County Fritillary
<i>Lewisia rediviva</i>	Santo Domingo Lewisia
<i>Phacelia stebbinsii</i>	Stebbins' Phacelia

#### d. Interpretive Signage

We will install interpretive signs along the Wetherall Trail and Cascade Canal Trail which will educate the public about the hydraulic and hard rock mining that took place here and of the land's natural recovery from mining and logging operations. These interpretive areas will also feature the

importance of fuel reduction in an age of fire suppression to reduce risks of catastrophic wildfire. We will also showcase the diverse bird species who call this area their home; such as the Pileated Woodpecker, Orange-Crowned Warbler, Kingfisher, Dipper and bats.

## 2.) Schedule

For approximately three years after the project start, the invasive species management and native plant restoration will be implemented in accordance with the schedule below. The fuel reduction will be completed by the end of 2012. The bulk of the re-vegetation work will commence during the winter months of 2013; however, invasive species removal and some replanting will continue during the later two years to ensure the native plants thrive over the invasive plants.

[illegible]



Due to the ongoing nature and need to ensure success of the restoration effort, the bulk of the work will be completed during the first year; however, each year additional action will need to occur sequentially, with the final restoration activities to be completed by November 2014.

### **c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements**

#### **1. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):**

Both Marty Coleman-Hunt (BYLT) and Justin Wood (SSI) had conversations with Julie Griffith-Flatter concerning our CEQA Exemption status and she suggested the following Categorical Exemptions would apply to this project. We are asking SNC to be the lead agency on this grant and file for a Notice of Exemption on our behalf.

We believe that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption under Section 15333- Small Habitat Restoration Projects. The acreage that will be replanted with natives will not exceed 5 acres. The terms of this exemption that directly relate to this project are:

- The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.*
- Revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species.*
- Projects to restore or enhance habitat that are carried out principally with hand labor and not mechanized equipment.*
- Stream or river bank stabilization with native vegetation or other bioengineering techniques, the primary purpose of which is to reduce or eliminate erosion and sedimentation.*

Our Fuel Load Reduction portion of the project would qualify for Categorical Exemption under Section 15304- Minor Alterations to Land. We will not be removing any healthy, mature, and scenic trees from the property. We will be focusing strictly on young trees in dense stands with a DBH of 6" or less. The terms of this exemption that directly relate to this project are:

- Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions.*

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has visited the site and determined that thinning in this area is necessary to prevent catastrophic wildfire for the surrounding neighborhood. A Letter of Support is attached.

Woodpecker Preserve is owned in Fee Title by Bear Yuba Land Trust.

There is no evidence of prehistoric activity within the project area. However, evidence of historic mining related activity was observed at two locations within the project area. These areas will be completely avoided during work and the cultural features would not be disturbed.

Woodpecker Preserve does not have any perennial streams on the property. Little Deer Creek is a perennial stream that is located about 200 ft north of the property boundary. This stream drains approximately five square miles and flows from Quaker Hill in a westerly direction into Deer Creek in the town of Nevada City. The likelihood of fuels management having any impact on this stream is minimal. Introducing native plants along the base of the ravine will act as erosion control and decrease the amount of sedimentation being washed downstream. We will be using minimization measures such as hand clearing, which will reduce disturbance to the soil. Areas of soil that are disturbed will be re-vegetated as well to reduce hillside erosion in those areas

The fuel management portion of this project will occur throughout the entire 28.23 acres in selected locations. A 4 acre portion that is located just south of the Cascade Canal will be one main area of focus. This is the area nearest to the residential dwellings with portions that are heavily overgrown and contains a large amount of downed wood. We would also be focusing our efforts around the existing trail and the area where the new trail will be constructed. A 30 foot buffer on either side of the trail will be the main focus area. A maximum of 20 acres and a minimum of 5 acres will be treated based on selective integrated vegetation management practices determined at initial surveys.

Methods of removal will all be done by hand. We will use volunteer labor and/or the California Conservation Corp to manually remove selected trees/brush. Leaf It To Me Inc. located in Grass Valley, CA will be bringing a track chipper on site to chip all materials possible. We will take special care to leave snags that provide suitable habitat for nesting birds. There are also many downed logs that offer habitat for small mammals and ground nesting birds which would be left untouched as well.

Surveys will be conducted prior to the start of any work to determine sensitive habitat areas. We will perform bird surveys and vegetation transect surveys both before and in the years following the project. We will also administer runoff monitoring for the NID Ravine to determine the change in sedimentation being deposited into Little Deer Creek before and after native re-vegetation.

Invasive species removal will also be conducted using hand removal methods. Himalayan Blackberry will be cut and disposed of and Scotch Broom will be pulled by the root and disposed of as well. The total area of Himalayan Blackberry and Scotch Broom to be treated will be less than 5 acres and will improve habitat for native plants.

Revegetation will occur on less than 5 acres as well. We will be focusing on the NID Ravine which is highly erosive. Decreasing the amount of sedimentation and erosion in this area is the primary goal. We will also be revegetating areas where Himalayan Blackberry is removed to supplement any habitat lost in those areas. Native plant species that will be used in the replanting include:

Acer macrophyllum (Big Leaf Maple), Gallium bolanderi (Bolander Bedstraw), Symphoricarpos mollis (Creeping Snowberry), Muhlenbergia rigens (Deer Grass), Rhamnus rubra (Sierra Coffeeberry), Rubus leucodermis (White-Stemmed Raspberry), and Salix spp. (Willow species).

#### **d. Organizational Capacity**

Bear Yuba Land Trust is a 501(c)3 organization with a mission to promote conservation of land in the foothills region from the Bear to the Yuba Rivers, and from the western crest of the Sierra peaks to the Sacramento Valley floor. Since 1991 more than a 6,000 acres in the region have been protected from development and is stewarded by BYLT in perpetuity. BYLT has built and maintains more than 40 miles of community trails and owns and directly manages about 1,000 acres of public access parks and open space.

BYLT has agricultural easements on two working forests and works collaboratively with the landowners to manage these productive timber lands. The Johnathon Whitworth Butts Forest Management Area is a 160-acre timber preserve and the Roth Forest Working Forest Conservation Easement, has 311 acres. Both are sustainably managed according to state-approved timber management plans.

The key personnel for the project are staffers with senior-level experience in land management and conservation. These individuals will oversee the planning, management and execution of the project. Each of the consulting personnel is a technical professional in forestry and wildlife biology and have worked closely with BYLT on a number of projects over many years. Our implementation partner is Sierra Streams Institute who has more than 16 years experience doing restoration in our watershed. From 2009-2011 BYLT and SSI have been partners in the development of the Deer Creek Tribute Trail, a 6-mile long trail and restoration project along Deer Creek in Nevada City.

#### **Key Personnel**

**Marty Coleman-Hunt, Executive Director** (staff): Marty holds a B.A. from UC Santa Cruz and an M.B.A. from San Francisco State University. She has had a 30-year career in business management and program leadership for non-profit organizations and in the private sector.

**Bill Haire, Trails Coordinator** (staff): Bill spent 34 years working for the Forest Service, specializing in Recreation and Land Management with experience in timber, range, wildlife, and watershed management. He managed the trail program for the Nevada City and Downieville Ranger Districts for 7-years.

**Erin Tarr, Stewardship Programs Manager** (staff): Erin holds a BA in Environmental Studies from Cal State Sacramento and has experience as stewardship coordinator and providing restoration services for Placer Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and California Department of Fish and Game.

#### Consulting Personnel

**Ted Beedy, Board Member Emeritus (voluntary)**: Dr. Ted Beedy has more than 30 years of experience as a professional wildlife biologist in the Sierra Nevada. Ted holds a Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of California, Davis.

**John Thomson, Lands Committee Project Manager** (voluntary): John Thomson has worked in natural resources conservation for over thirty years and was the Natural Resources Planner and Supervisory Biologist at Beale Air Force Base (AFB) in Yuba County. John also held senior wildlife biologist positions at the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. John carried out habitat restoration projects and protection of endangered species.

**Geri Bergen, Lands Committee Member, Board Member Emeritus** (voluntary): A Registered Professional Forester, Geri earned her Bachelor of Science in forestry, with highest honors, from UC Berkeley. Geri worked to implement 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as regional environmental coordinator for Region 5. Geri was the first woman in the US appointed as forest supervisor when she was held that position on the Tahoe National Forest.

**Kevin Whitlock, Lands Committee Member, Timber Projects Coordinator** (voluntary): Kevin Whitlock of Under the Trees is a local and international expert in forestry and natural resource conservation. He has over twenty-five years of experience in forestry, environmental impact analysis, environmental economics, ecosystem assessment, biodiversity conservation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

#### Project Partner

**Sierra Streams Institute**: SSI is a non-profit watershed science organization, founded in 1995 as Friends of Deer Creek based in Nevada City, California. SSI's emphasis on rigorous science and consistent data collection provides the basis for restoration decisions that are made on behalf of Deer Creek and other Sierra streams. SSI has successfully completed several restoration efforts throughout the watershed, including re-vegetation work. Long term success of our restoration work has been proven by analysis of our macroinvertebrate dataset.

SSI staff includes a biologist, geologist, hydrologist and chemist, all with considerable expertise in project management. Among SSI's board members and volunteers are a microbiologist, hydrologist, former agency head at the State Water Quality Control Board, and the former manager of Nevada City's wastewater treatment plant.

Sierra Streams Institute is led by Executive Director Joanne Hild. Joanne came to the organization in 2000 as staff biologist with 20 years of college teaching experience and extensive experience

working on local environmental issues. Justin Wood, River Scientist, graduated from Indiana University in 2007 with a BS in Geography with a concentration in hydrology and a minor in environmental management. He worked as a researcher in rainfall surface hydrology and stream technician doing habitat assessments.

#### **e. Cooperation and Community Support**

The present proposal emerged from the Woodpecker Ravine Management Plan which was written in 2004 after the land acquisition by BYLT. The plan was informed by the Timber Harvest Plan and Bureau of Land Management biological inventory that were prepared and approved in 1997. This plan was reviewed by CalFire (then the CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection) and was made available for public comment, including 12 nearby landowners and a local Native American Tribe (Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California).

This past year, Bear Yuba Land Trust has met with and toured the project with adjacent neighbors and individuals of the Banner Mountain Homeowners Association to understand their uses of the trail, concerns about the Preserve landscape and adjacent land uses. BYLT has worked with Save Our Historic Canals and Nevada Irrigation District on restoration and improvements of the historic Cascade Canal and D-S Canal, and the public use of the canal berms for hiking. BYLT consulted with Nevada County Fire Safe Council and the City of Nevada City about fire ecology on the site and best methods for mitigating catastrophic wildfire in the area. Similarly, BYLT met with forester Kevin Whitlock of Under the Trees to comprehend sustainable forest practices on this site specifically, and with geotechnical engineer Jason Muir of Holdredge and Krull consulting engineering and geologist firm in Nevada City to understand the stability of the eroded area and the ways to stabilize the banks of the damaged area from further erosion.

Sierra Streams Institute is BYLT's proposed partner in implementing the fuels reduction and forest restoration plan at Woodpecker Preserve. We have had numerous reconnaissance visits and planning sessions to scope out the project, map it, and perform preliminary planning for project execution.

Letters of support from Banner Mountain Homeowners' Association, Under the Trees, Nevada County Fire Safe Council and Sierra Streams Institute are attached.

#### **f. Long-Term Management and Sustainability**

Long term management is addressed in the Woodpecker Ravine Management Plan. Project activities will be guided by the Management Plan. The baseline plan will be updated with new data from the restoration and fuels reduction work in this project. New mapping will be integrated and further assessments on site work needed after this project is complete. It is anticipated that more comprehensive bank stabilization may need to occur in the canal blow-out area. Further, there is small an abandoned mine on one corner of the property (which has been secured), not near the public access trails area. This area has been inaccessible due to the brush overgrowth. Once the clearing is complete, we will be able to take a closer look at this mine entrance and determine next steps for remediation.

The ongoing work to maintain the area treated under this grant will include activities in alignment with the Woodpecker Ravine Management Plan. BLYT will monitor and remediate the reemergence of non-native invasive vegetation and ensure the continued fire-safe composition of the forest and will continue to manage the recreational and educational uses of the trail. These will include:

- Manage the forest for a diverse mix of trees and plants maintaining and improving old growth forest habitat and wildlife forage and cover.
- Eliminate exotics such as domestic ivy and Himalayan blackberry. Annual elimination scotch broom.
- Conduct regular brushing and forest thinning on the four acres above the Cascade Canal to reduce fire ladders and maintain tree diversity.

These activities will be managed by staff Stewardship Programs Manager with the assistance of contract consultants and laborers and/or volunteer resources.

## **g. Performance Measures**

### Common to All Categories

1. Number of People Reached: 4,800 -- The value of fuel reduction and healthy forest restoration reaches the Banner Mountain neighborhood very specifically. This represents roughly 400 homes. Nevada City, with a population of 3,000 and another 1000 in the proximal areas will be additionally positively impacted as a fuel break, especially considering the contiguous lands that are under protection creating a “band” of managed forest in a highly vulnerable area.
2. Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada: \$50,000 of non-SNC provided value is committed, including: donation of \$15,000 through local fundraising for trail work and approximately \$20,000 in volunteer hours, approximately \$15,000 in cash and in-kind services donation from NID.
3. Number and Type of Jobs Created: Although no new full-time jobs will be created, six people will be employed part time to do this work and will contribute to their overall annual income over a three-year period.

### Common to Site Improvement & Acquisition Categories

6. Linear Feet of Stream Bank Protected or Restored: The Preserve has ephemeral streams that drain into a one-half mile stretch of Little Deer Creek which provides water for the Nevada City Water Company, a local City-owned water utility. 1,000 feet of Nevada Irrigation canal bank will be positively impacted by this work.
7. Number of New Recreation Access Points: there will be an additional 2 miles of new trail added as part of the project, linking two trail access points in a loop.

### Site Improvement Only

13. Acres of Land Improved or Restored: 28 acres of land will be improved with fuel reduction; with 5 acres of restoration (planting). However this is a middle “puzzle piece” connecting nearly 300 acres of managed forest by BLM, City of Nevada City land, private property bound by a conservation easement, representing a substantial fire buffer to downtown Nevada City.
15. Feet of Trail/Path Length Constructed or Improved: 2 miles of new trail will be part of the project effort, but funded with other resources.

## Appendix B3

### SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

#### PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

**Project Name:** Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project - Ref # 631

**Applicant:** Bear Yuba Land Trust

SECTION ONE						
DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Task 1: Project Management Costs (BYLT)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00			\$7,000.00
Task 2: Fuel Reduction Labor (SSI/BYLT/CCC)	\$9,500.00	\$1,000.00				\$10,500.00
Task 3: Track Chipper (Leaf It To Me, Inc.)	\$11,975.00					\$11,975.00
Task 4: Native Plant Re-Vegetation (SSI/BYLT)	\$7,000.00	\$500.00				\$7,500.00
Task 5: Invasive Removal (SSI/BYLT)	\$3,500.00	\$500.00				\$4,000.00
Task 6: Monitoring (BYLT)	\$4,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00			\$8,500.00
Restoration Tools (BYLT)	\$500.00	\$500.00				\$1,000.00
<b>DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	\$39,975.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,475.00
SECTION TWO						
INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Trimble GPS/Pathfinder Software	\$4,675.00					\$4,675.00
Interpretive Sign Design/Installation	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00				\$5,000.00
Project Management (BYLT)	\$3,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			\$6,500.00
<b>INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>	\$12,175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,175.00
<b>PROJECT TOTAL:</b>	\$52,150.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66,650.00
SECTION THREE						
<b>Administrative Costs (Costs may not to exceed 15% of total Project Cost) :</b>						<b>Total</b>
Overhead (14.5%)						\$9,665.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,665.00
<b>SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:</b>	\$52,150.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$76,315.00
SECTION FOUR						
OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
<i>List other funding or in-kind contributors to project (i.e. Sierra Business Council, Department of Water Resources, etc.)</i>						
NID	\$15,000.00					\$15,000.00
Volunteer Labor	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00
Trail Donation	\$15,000.00					\$15,000.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
<b>Total Other Contributions:</b>	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00

**NOTE:** The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.



\* Operating Costs should be allocated to the percentage that is applicable to the grant based on your cost allocation methodology and cannot exceed 15% of your total project costs.

## **b. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements**

### **CEQA:**

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Woodpecker Preserve does not have any perennial streams on the property. Little Deer Creek is a perennial stream that is located about 200 ft north of the property boundary. This stream drains approximately five square miles and flows from Quaker Hill in a westerly direction into Deer Creek in the town of Nevada City. The likelihood of fuels management having any impact on this stream is minimal. Introducing native plants along the base of the ravine will act as erosion control and decrease the amount of sedimentation being washed downstream. We will be using minimization

measures such as hand clearing, which will reduce disturbance to the soil. Areas of soil that are disturbed will be re-vegetated as well to reduce hillside erosion in those areas

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Revegetation will occur on less than 5 acres as well. We will be focusing on the NID Ravine which is highly erosive. Decreasing the amount of sedimentation and erosion in this area is the primary goal. We will also be revegetating areas where Himalayan Blackberry is removed to supplement any habitat lost in those areas. Native plant species that will be used in the replanting include: *Acer macrophyllum* (Big Leaf Maple), *Gallium bolanderi* (Bolander Bedstraw), *Symphoricarpos mollis* (Creeping Snowberry), *Muhlenbergia rigens* (Deer Grass), *Rhamnus rubra* (Sierra Coffeeberry), *Rubus leucodermis* (White-Stemmed Raspberry), and *Salix* spp. (Willow species).



**Banner Mountain Homeowners Association**

PO Box 833, Nevada City, CA 95959

January 19, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive Suite  
205 Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Grant Reviewer:

Banner Mountain Homeowners Association is pleased to affirm our support for the Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project proposed by Bear Yuba Land Trust. Woodpecker Preserve is a heavily forested 28 acre parcel of land which acts as a buffer to a densely populated residential neighborhood on Banner Mountain in Nevada County. The Preserve is an important and vital wildlife preserve with a recreational trail in an area easily accessible by homeowners.

The Restoration Project plan for fuel reduction and invasive plant removal would be of great benefit to the ecological health of the property and its surroundings, and it would help protect a community that is extremely vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. Because of the connection to the public trail network and bird watching habitat, the property is very visible and beloved by the local homeowners. Moreover, the area has accumulated an excessive amount of slash from storm damage and earlier logging. It is also relatively close to the historic Nevada City downtown area, increasing use and value to a larger population. The newly constructed trail is being well used which tends to increase danger as does any increase in human use of forested areas.

We strongly support this effort to protect our local natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment of current and future generations of trail users and homeowners. Please feel free to contact me or other Board members if we can provide additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Helene Hall, President

Banner Mountain Homeowner's Association

[helene@bannermountain.org](mailto:helene@bannermountain.org)



**Fire Safe Council of Nevada County**  
**P.O. Box 1112**  
**Grass Valley, CA 95945**  
**Phone (530) 272-1122**  
**Fax (530) 272-3232**  
**[www.areyoufiresafe.com](http://www.areyoufiresafe.com)**

January 20, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject:** Letter of Support for the Bear Yuba Land Trust Woodpecker Forest  
Restoration Project application for Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant  
Program

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC) is pleased to provide our support the grant proposal developed by the Bear Yuba Land Trust for the Woodpecker Preserve. The project will benefit the residents of Banner Mountain as home sites surround the project.

The Deer Creek canyon in the Nevada City area was identified as the highest priority for fuels reduction treatments in the Nevada County Community Wildfire Protection Plan due to community development in the wildland urban interface. The FSCNC has been working with community group sponsors to remove Scotch broom as part of our *Scotch Broom Challenge* program along Gracie Road and the Nevada Irrigation Ditch from this site for the past two years. Great progress has been made in addressing the invasive weeds. More work is needed to reduce the hazardous fuel from the forest.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne Drummond".

Joanne Drummond  
Executive Director





January 18, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Grant Reviewer:

Sierra Streams Institute is pleased to affirm our support for the Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project proposed by Bear Yuba Land Trust.

Woodpecker Preserve is a heavily forested 28 acre parcel of land which acts as a forested buffer to a densely populated residential neighborhood on Banner Mountain in Nevada City. The Preserve is a critically important wildlife preserve containing a recreational trail in an area populated by many homes. Their plan for fuels reduction and invasives removal would be of great benefit to the forest health of the property and its surroundings and would increase protection of a community that is acutely vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. Because of the public trail network and as an area of good bird watching habitat, the property is very visible and beloved by the local homeowners. Moreover, the area is extremely fire prone and a threat to the historic Nevada City downtown area, and such dangers always increase with any increase in human use as with this trail. Sierra Streams Institute is pleased to continue our ongoing partnership with the Bear Yuba Land Trust in the implementation of this project.

We strongly support any effort to protect our local natural and recreational resources for the enjoyment of future generations of trail users and homeowners. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Sellen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Sellen  
Watershed Coordinator

January 18, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

**Subject: Letter of Support for the Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project Application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Healthy Forests Grant Program**

Dear Grant Reviewer:

Under the Trees, a forestry and ecosystem service firm has been providing ecological, economical, and sustainable forestry, agriculture and natural resource management to domestic and international clients for over fifteen years. We are pleased to affirm our support for the Woodpecker Preserve Forest Restoration Project proposed by Bear Yuba Land Trust.

Woodpecker Preserve is a heavily forested parcel of land which acts as a buffer to a densely populated residential neighborhood on Banner Mountain in Nevada City. The Preserve is in an area populated by many homes and is used for recreation and wildlife. Cal Fire ranks the Watershed Assets at Risk for this area as High.

The forest was logged 12 years ago using the standard post logging fire hazard reduction techniques for forested areas. Presently, the area is overgrown with brush and small trees in the understory, characterized by a high level of fuel accumulation. The heavy fuel load is a result from a century and a half of fire suppression efforts and a lack of Forest Stewardship. The Bear Yuba Land Trust plan for fuels reduction and invasive plants removal would increase the protection of the community and watershed assets, and promote forest health by reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Whitlock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Whitlock" clearly distinguishable.

Kevin Whitlock, MBA, RPF 2436  
Under the Trees – Forestry & Ecosystems Services  
P.O. Box 363  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
530-274-7390  
[Underthetrees@att.net](mailto:Underthetrees@att.net)

# WOODPECKER PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

draft

REPORT DATE: 5/12/04

GIFT DATE: 1999

PROPERTY CHARACTERIZATION: Preserve X, Passive Park   , Recreation Park   ,  
Trails X, Historic   , Working Landscape   ,

PROPERTY GOAL: Old-growth coniferous preserve with recreational trails.

PUBLIC ACCESS: open

LAND MANAGER: John Bilheimer

CARETAKER: NA

## I) SUMMARY OF WILL, BEQUEST AND DONOR INTENT

### Memo from Steve Lund and Bill Nickerl describing gift intent:

"Nothing in this letter will limit NCLT's ability to use, or do with, the property in any way they wish. However, we would like you to know what we envisioned..."

- 1) Legal public use of the existing trail along Cascade Canal.
- 2) A public neighborhood park on the four plus acres above the Cascade Canal.
- 3) A trail connecting the two canals.
- 4) Interpretive signs along the above envisioned trail explaining the mining activities that took place here.
- 5) Obtaining a trail easement from an adjacent landowner and constructing a trail along or near the D-S Canal to provide public trail access to Little Deer Creek Falls and Banner Mountain Trail (a county road). This would provide a public access loop back to the Cascade Canal via Bandoleer Road.
- 6) The balance of the property left as open space or managed as a working forest as the legal access we obtained provides for the property to be Hi-Lead logged from a single point every twenty years beginning in 2020."

## II) PROPERTY BACKGROUND

### A. History of Property

Titled Woodpecker Preserve (WP), the 28.23 acre parcel was formerly owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In early 1995 this, and other parcels managed by BLM, appeared on a list of parcels designed for disposal through an exchange process. Bill Nickerl and Steve Lund formed Saving Special Places, incorporated, to hold the property, logged a half million board feet to pay for the property, and then donated the property to the NCLT. There is an estimated one million board feet on the property that could be logged under current forestry practices. On purchase from BLM, the property was stocked with 135+ year old timber, but evidenced harvesting in the past 50 years.

The property is on a north facing slope with an elevation drop of approximately 400 feet. The Cascade Canal crosses the upper slopes and the D-S Canal crosses the toe of the property. There is a 50-60 foot deep gully running down through the property caused by an NID ditch drain facility. And there is evidence of both hydraulic and hard rock mining on the property. Pipes can be found which were used for the hydraulic mining. Hydraulic mining has resulted in two massive gullies.

### B. Surrounding Area Characteristics.

*Woodpecker Wildlife Preserve*  
Dutton Park Baseline Management Plan  
DRAFT



The Cascade Canal has become a prime walking trail for Banner Mountain neighborhood residents. The NCLT has had some limited success in attaining formal trail easements on canal parcels. South of the Cascade Canal and bordering the SE corner of the property are properties ranging from one-half acre to one-acre. (Naomi Nagano has graciously provided the community with a 10 foot easement on her property so the public can legally access the SE corner of the preserve leading to the Cascade Canal.) East, north, and west of the property, below the Cascade canal, properties are zoned rural 5 acres. An “emergency” “timber harvest” access road, used for Woodpecker Preserve (WP) timber extraction, was granted to Saving Special Places for twenty year time blocks by the Howard family. The Howard’s own 66-acres, in four parcels, located east of WP and stretching north across Little Deer Creek and Banner Mountain Trail. Directly north of the property are 34-acres (2 parcels) owned by Deardorff and recently timbered. The Deardorff property encompasses an approximate ½ mile stretch of the D-S canal from Banner Mountain Trail to WP. The canal moves west across the NW corner of the preserve and crosses the Best property (6 acres) before crossing Blue Road.

#### **C. Future Potential for Expansion of Property**

Deardorff, Howard, and Best are the key ownerships shaping future park and trail opportunities affecting the Woodpecker Preserve (WP). A D-S canal easement across the Best property and Deardorff property would tie Banner Mountain Trails to Blue road. Either would access WP. An alternative is a trail easement across the Howard property. All support the potential for expanded public use.

#### **D. Related Programs in Area or Similar Habitat**

Land Trust management plans are occurring on the Adam Ryan, Salter, and Burton properties. All involve issues of property access, neighborhood cooperation, isolated neighbor opposition, and management with little or no budgeted funds. Short term management in each case is predicated on finding partners – neighborhood associations, community service organizations or park districts. Banner Mountain Homeowners Association might be an important partner in achieving the goals set forth in this management plan.

### **III. PROPERTY SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

**Has a baseline / biological report been done? YES ☒ NO ☐**

**If YES, summarize results. If NO, complete the following:**

#### **A. Physical Characteristics (emphasis on hydrology, geography).**

According to the BLM biological report the eastern portion of the parcel is “presently an unstable gully that is periodically eroded. The heavy winter of 1996-97 resulted in considerable land slope failure and mass movement in this gully. The gully system on the parcel is maintained in a periodic unstable condition due to its use as a turn-out drainage-way from the NID canal upslope resulting in infrequent but geomorphically significant erosion and thus continued slope instability.” The 8’ slip area is approximately 200 feet across and extends 100’ down the slope with the gully crossing its toe. This instability was again accentuated in 1992 when vandals snipped the locks on the turn-out and released canal waters down the gully causing significant, high sedimentation loads in Little Deer Creek and in Deer Creek. There is potential for continued significant erosion under NID turnout conditions. The area is 100’ below the Cascade canal.



Andy Cassano visited WP Preserve with Gerry Anderson, a geotechnical engineer and examined the slide. Anderson said area is not "critical" but should be watched for movement.

**B. Biological / Ecosystem Characteristics.**

The preserve is of a mixed forest largely dominated by ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Douglas-fir, maple, and black oak. Dogwood and a few isolated madrone are found. Above and south of the Cascade Canal, there are many 5-12' Douglas fir which will eventually transition the current mixed forest ecology into a DF late succession forest. According to the Timber Harvest Plan (THP), late succession forest stands were harvested, but past activity had removed stands on neighboring parcels. Logging debris is heavy below the Cascade Canal, but most is on the ground. The log loading platform, approximately 2 acres, would be a nice bench for a small picnic area, although it has been timbered heavily.

BLM produced a "Biological Evaluation for the Woodpecker Land Exchange". The evaluation was based on two plant field surveys (spring and summer) and examination of data on "target species" for this area. No known or suspected occurrences of federally listed (endangered or threatened) plants were documented or found. A rare population of "dissected-leaf toothwort (*Cardamine pachystigma* ssp. *dissectifolia*) was located adjacent to and on the parcel, growing along the downstream bank of the NID Cascade canal (California Native Plant Society listed). The preserve under story has whiteleaf manzanita, deerbrush, and poison oak. A colony of non-native ivy is also on the preserve. A large area of bleeding heart and wild iris cover the slopes below the Cascade Canal.

The report indicates no known or suspected occurrences of federally listed animals. The preserve is within the winter range for the Nevada City Deer Herd.

**C. Physical Improvements (structures, fencing, utilities, parking, etc.)**

**Has a house inspection been completed on all buildings? YES \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ NA**

**If YES, attach report and summarize primary findings. If, NO, describe:**

An "emergency", "timber harvest" access road crosses the Howard property and cuts into the NE corner of the preserve to a bench area which was used for a logging landing. Two NID canal easements cross the property. There is a remnant of an old building and a mine shaft on the property near the northeasterly corner.

**D. Constraints to Management.**

Public access to the parcel D-S Canal is the primary constraint to recreational expansion. Developing the canal-trail easements is critical to long-term access. At least two neighbors are unsupportive of easements. The steep erosion cuts and the NID outlet area have steep drop offs with public risk. The property also lacks any endowment funds to support trail, park, forest thinning, and related management activities. While the property has wonderful views of Nevada City and Harmony Ridge, the Banner Mountain Gun Club emits erratic percussions. Andy Cassano's report on the property indicates one property owner has an accessory building partially encroaching on the property. Finally, the slipping land and erosion require continued monitoring and some investment to repair and stabilize.

**IV. BASELINE MANAGEMENT GOALS**

**A. Ecological**



- Manage woodlands for diversity of trees and plants maintaining and improving old growth forest habitat and wildlife forage and cover.
- Eliminate exotics such as domestic ivy and Himalayan blackberry.
- Identify sensitivity and fragileness habitat and species.
- Stabilize land slippage area and erosion cut banks.

**B. Programmatic**

- Develop internal trail network that link canals and increase public trail access upon satisfactory completion of infrastructure repairs.
- Trail and park development shall be in line with a passive, open-space preserve.
- Policies on bikes, horses and dogs are to be defined to ensure broad, diverse public enjoyment of the park, protection of trails and users, and protection of wildlife and natural resources. These policies may evolve with park use and management capacity.
- Park development and planning will incorporate the neighbors.
- Develop legal deeded access along D-S Canal to property.

**C. Infrastructure**

- Permanent closure of the NID water turnout.
- Annual review of trails and canal ditches for issues of public safety.

## **V. SHORT TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR BASELINE GOALS**

**A. Ecological**

- Forest thinning on the four acres above the Cascade Canal to reduce fire ladders and maintain tree diversity.
- Exotic species: elimination of domestic ivy and annual elimination of scotch broom.
- Seasonal wildflower and song bird surveys.
- Assess slide, loading platform, and surrounding area for status of tree regeneration. Plant as necessary.

**B. Programmatic**

- Trail easement discussions with Howard, Best, and Deardorff property owners to ascertain possible trail easement alternatives affecting planning for preserve trail development.
- Hold on new loop and or connecting trail development until safety infrastructure issues and planning alternatives are addressed.
- Develop programmatic trail and park plan with neighborhood organization to ensure funding and volunteer resource base.

**C. Infrastructure**

- Fencing along Cascade Ditch NID water turnout to prevent fall and injury. (Bill – this is a NID issue. J.B., what do you think?)
- Review of mine shaft area for public risk and NCLT exposure -- modification as needed.
- Modification and stability of land slippage cuts to prevent public injury prior to any cross canal or loop trail developments.

## **VI. MONITORING OBJECTIVES**

Because of the high use, public nature of this area, the property should be monitored at least quarterly. Land Trust identification of one or two neighbors, who walk regularly and are willing to serve as monitors, would be useful.

**A. Permitted Uses**

- Signed trails for walking, jogging, and biking.

- Sign boundary areas where public access or neighbor issues may occur.

**B. Non-Permitted Uses**

- No dumping of neighborhood yard debris on preserve.
- No camping or fires.

**VII. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR ISSUES (SHORT TERM)**

- Permanent closure (in writing) of NID water release gate.
- Mine review
- Trail repair above Cascade Canal

**VIII. POTENTIAL COOPERATORS**

- Banner Mountain Homeowner's Association
- Audubon Society and Native Plant Society for flora and fauna surveys.

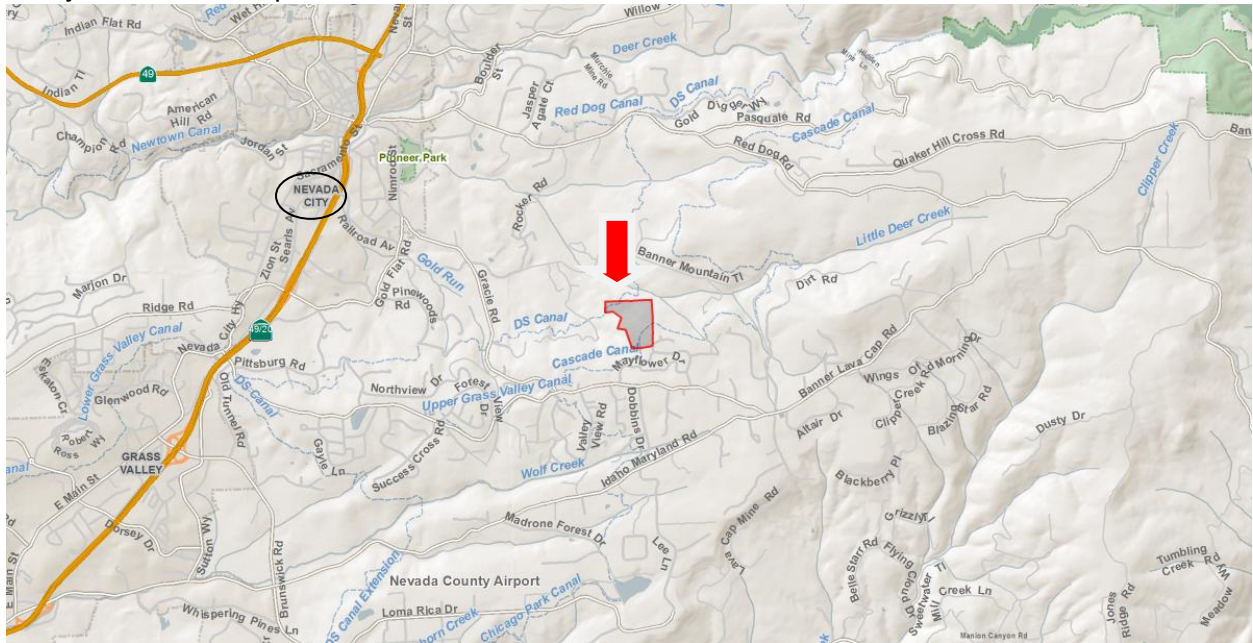
**IX. SHORT TERM MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

(See short term management goals)

**X. PROPERTY BUDGET (Taxes, insurance, utilities, other costs, income)**

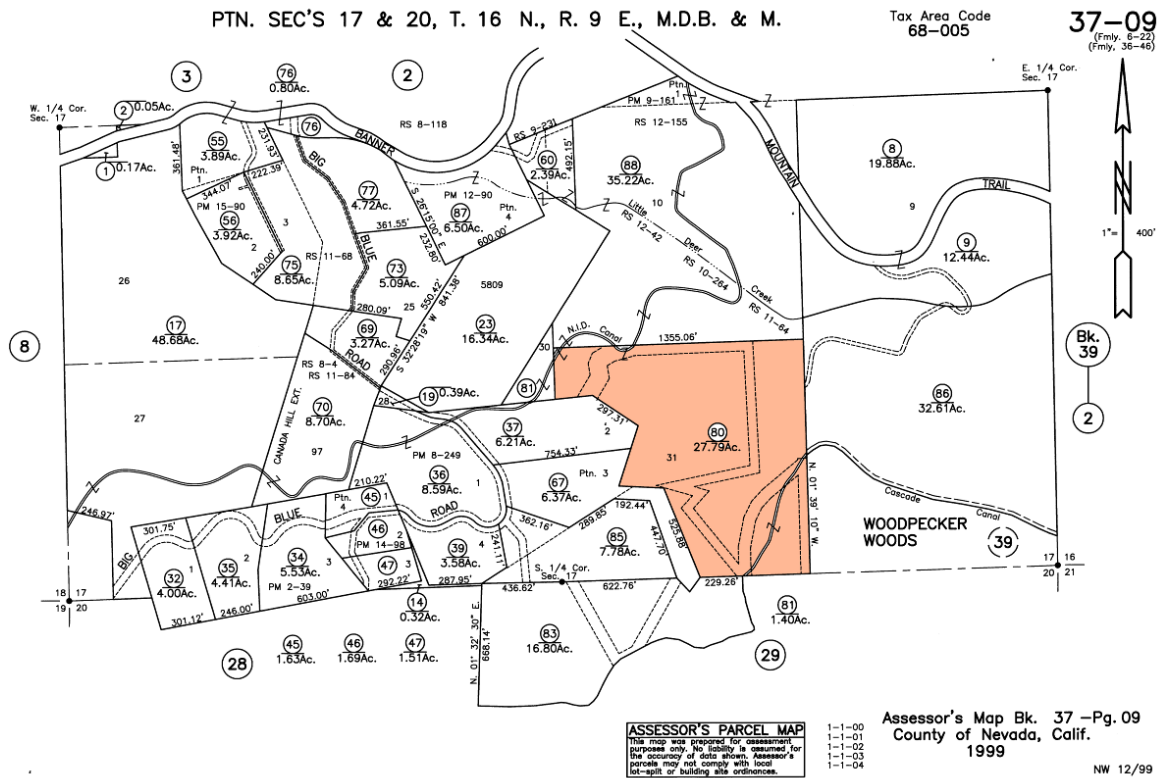
John B. – can you draw up a budget with Cheryl?

- Project Location Map

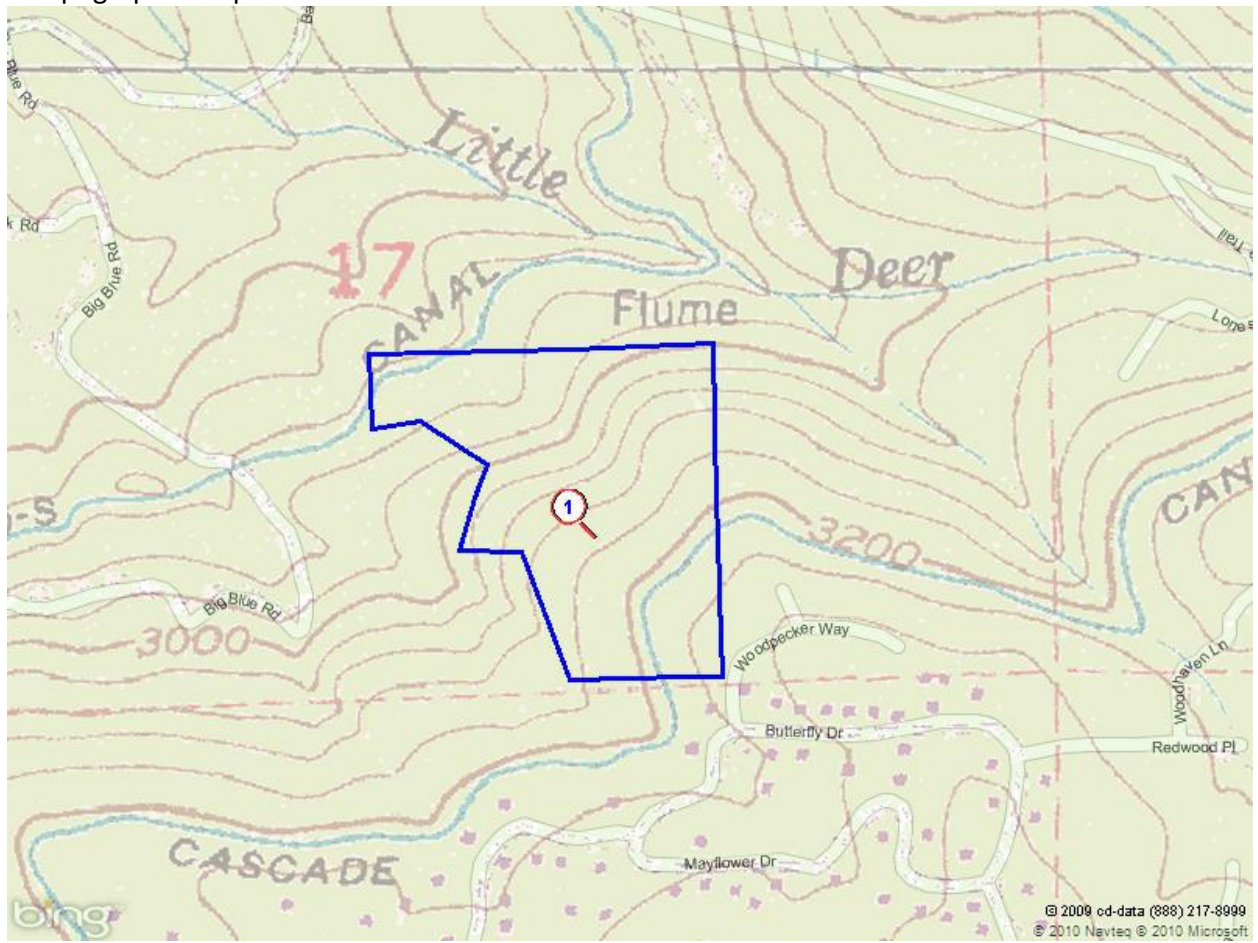




• Parcel Map with County Assessor's Parcel Number(s): 37-090-80



- Topographic Map











































1) Land Tenure

Bear Yuba Land Trust owns the 28.23 acre Woodpecker Preserve in fee title.

Recording requested by:

Nevada County Land Trust

When recorded mail to:

Nevada County Land Trust

P.O. Box 2088

Nevada City, CA 95959

Barcode  
Nevada, County Recorder  
Jewett-Burdick  
DOC- 1999-9945114-00  
Acct 1-California Title Co.  
Thursday, DEC 30, 1999 08:00:00  
REC \$8.00 MIC \$1.00 AUT \$2.00  
SBS \$1.00  
Ttl Pd \$10.00 Nbr-0000016836  
CNO/CO/1-2

The undersigned grantor (s) declares that the documentary transfer tax is \$ 2

Assessor's Parcel Number: 37 - 090 - 80

GRANT DEED  
(DONATION)

As a gift SAVING SPECIAL PLACES, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company

CO

Hereby Grants to the NEVADA COUNTY LAND TRUST, a non-profit, public benefit, California Corporation, its successors and assigns, all that real property located in the County of Nevada, State of California, described as follows:

Lot 31, Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 9 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Together with any and all tenants, hereditaments, rents and or easements appurtenant thereto.

Grantor covenants and warrants that he/she is lawfully seized and possessed of the land aforesaid and has the full right, power and authority to execute this conveyance, and that said land is free and clear of liens, claims or encumbrances, except as shown above, and that he/she will defend title to the land conveyed herein and quiet enjoyment thereof against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

Dated this 20 day of Dec., 1999

SAVING SPECIAL PLACES, LLC by:

Steven F. Lund

Steven F. Lund ( Member )

William W. Nickerl

William W. Nickerl ( Member )

Accepted for the  
NEVADA COUNTY LAND TRUST

Elizabeth Donnelly  
ELIZABETH DONNELLY - Secretary

( Acknowledgment on reverse )

Dated this 20 day of Dec., 1999



## Notary's Acknowledgment

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF PlacerOn this 20 day of December, in the year 1999, before me, the undersigned, a

Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared Steven F. Lund, personally known to me (or proved on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

## Notary's Acknowledgment

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

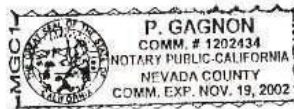
COUNTY OF PlacerOn this 20 day of December, in the year 1999, before me, the undersigned, a

Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared William W. Nickerl, personally known to me (or proved on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

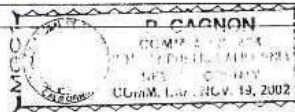
## Notary's Acknowledgment

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF NevadaOn this 20th day of December, in the year 1999, before me, the undersigned, a

Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared Elizabeth Donnelly, personally known to me (or proved on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.



END OF DOCUMENT

1) Site Plan

## Woodpecker Preserve Fuel Management and Invasive Removal



# Woodpecker Preserve Native Re-Vegetation Focus Areas

